



STANFORD UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

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STANFORD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
Department of Genetics

May 14, 1970


Mr. Robert F. Lederer  
American Association of Nurserymen, Inc.  
835 Southern Building  
15th & H Streets, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Lederer,

Thank you for your letter of May 8th. I have great respect for Dr. Iltis his having been a colleague of mine when I was at the University of Wisconsin prior to 1959. The general terms of their article in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists seem to me beyond debate. I have not really addressed myself to the subject with enough detail to qualify as the expert that your last paragraph takes me for, but, in fact, I had recently started to take some interest in the subject and have begun to read a few things about it. I have also noted that the field of "environmental psychiatry" is beginning to differentiate as a recognized discipline and I think that Dr. Iltis and his co-authors are a little pessimistic in suggesting that there is nothing going on, as he implies in his next to last paragraph. The National Institutes of Mental Health do, I believe, support a number of projects that are really not very distant from what Dr. Iltis asks for. I notice further that just yesterday, at the meeting of the American Psychiatric Association, there was a special panel concerned with "the study of physical environment and its relation to psychiatry".

You might find it worthwhile to communicate with Mr. Clyde Dorsett, Director, Architectural Project, National Institute of Mental Health, Chevy Chase, Maryland, who was a member of that panel and who may be able to give you further information on research in this field.

Sincerely yours,

  
Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Genetics

JL/rr

CC: Dr. Iltis (in re. Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, January 1970)  
Enclosure (copy of column 205, 206)